

# COMIC OPERA, VAUDEVILLE AND PHOTO-DRAMA DRAW APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCES IN DEFIANCE OF WEATHER'S CAPRICIOUS BEHAVIOR

"BILL" M'KENNA'S MINSTRELS FEATURE OF THE CARD FOR FIRST PART OF WEEK AT KEENEY'S THEATRE

"THE GONDOLIERS," AT OLYMPIC PARK, SCORES



**The Play's the Thing**  
By Irving R. Bacon

DOES anybody know what becomes of the million dollars after it is removed from the safe in Hargrave's house, in "The Million Dollar Mystery," which is running serially in the Evening Star and in many local photoplay houses? Not a cent of the story, and that he has intentionally left himself as much as anybody else at sea in order to be altogether unbiased and free to adopt the most plausible theory, which, no doubt, will be offered by the thousands who will seek the \$10,000 prize for the best solution.

This opinion seems to be borne out by the fact that in the enunciation of the conditions of the competition it is expressly stated that the best 100-word solution of the four problems involved in the story will be elaborated and run as the final chapter. Nevertheless it is fair to assume that the author already has a clear and comprehensive grasp of the entire story and that whatever any of the characters in it are represented as doing, they are doing with some definite end in view. If this is so the statement in the announcement of the conditions merely means that the author will sacrifice his own opinion as to the proper ending of the story if any other is offered which exceeds his in propriety.

I assume this to be the case, as otherwise there could be no coherency between the various parts of the story. It would be a sort of crazy quilt, a matter of patches thrown together at haphazard, like the monster of which the Roman poet Horace speaks, "a horse's neck attached to a human head, and plumage gathered from all sources stuck on about its members, so that what begins as a beautiful woman winds up as a shockingly hideous fish."

ONE of those who assume that the author of "The Million Dollar Mystery" is pursuing a definite plan, has assured me that he has been able to piece together, from this and that hint furnished by the story so far, the correct solution as to the whereabouts of the million. In order to follow his reasoning clearly let us review so much of what has occurred as is to the point.

The last time we obtained a glimpse of the money was in the very first episode of the story, when it was taken from the safe. After that the inference is that Hargrave (if it was Hargrave) took it away with him when he fled into a ballroom from the "Black Hundred" conspirators.

This inference, however, appears to be shattered by the following circumstance: The butler, discovering that one of the conspirators is prowling on the roof of the porch and trying to obtain a peep into the room of Florence (Mr. Hargrave's daughter), decides to avail himself of this opportunity to mystify the "Black Hundred." He pretends he is unconscious of the presence of the conspirator, and while the latter is looking into the room, the butler presses a button beneath a painting of Mr. Hargrave which thereupon moves out of place, disclosing an opening in the wall. Another button is pressed, and, presto, there appears in the opening a dumbwaiter-like arrangement on a shelf of which is a strong-box. This the butler takes and then replaces the wall and picture into their former condition.

We next see the butler taking the mysterious box out to sea in a motorboat. He is pursued by members of the "Black Hundred," and when they are about to overtake him he hurls the box into the water and uses an automatic pistol with such good effect that the gasoline tank of the pursuers' boat is perforated and afire.

THE conspirators, of course, believe that the box thrown into the sea contains the million dollars. One of them, Braine, the head and front of the organization, has the glimmer of a suspicion that the butler had merely resorted to this scheme to lead them astray in order to rid himself of their espionage. We, the spectators and readers who have witnessed or read the entire transaction, know that Braine's suspicion is well founded, but yet we are left in doubt as to whether there was any money at all in the strong-box at any time. The man who claims to have reasoned out the matter so as to be able to form a working hypothesis as to the real whereabouts of the money says:

"I have no doubt that the supposed butler is really Hargrave. The palmist, who in last week's 'The Play's the Thing,' is quoted as saying that the butler's hands were identical with the hands of Hargrave, was right. It was Jones, the butler, who escaped in the balloon, while Hargrave, clothed and made up as the butler, remained to keep guard over Florence. With Hargrave, of course, the million dollars also remained at home, and there is no reason to suppose that the hiding place behind the picture in Florence's room was not as good as any other place. I, therefore, assume that the strong-box really did contain the money for awhile. But when the conspirator who looked into the window saw it the chances are it no longer contained the money. The reason I say this is because it would have been extremely foolish for the butler to have afforded the desperado such a fine chance to shoot him and get away with the money. The strong-box, accordingly, by this time, had been bereft of its valuable contents; and when it was thrown into the sea may be sure it held nothing more precious than some old papers."

"I do not believe that the million was put back into the cubbyhole behind the picture. The conspirator had seen too well how that was operated. But the chances are that in a house of mystery like that of Hargrave there must be many places equally as secret, and it is likely that the million will be found distributed among these hiding places. No man of Hargrave's sagacity would 'trust all his eggs to one basket.'"

## CURTAIN CALLS

At the New Brighton Theatre, Brighton Beach, this week, Eddie Foy and the Seven Little Foys are the headliners. Another headline attraction on the program is Jesse L. Lasky's miniature musical comedy, "The Red Heifers." Edwards Comedy, with Jules Power in a comedy drama entitled, "One and One Make Three," by Mr. Davis. The Curzon Sisters are presenting their aerial act. They are hoisted high up over the heads of the audience and whirled about while supported only with their teeth. Max and Mabel Ford, of the Four Fords, have a singing and dancing offering. Frankie Fay and the Cox girls appear in their comedy offering. Hanlon and Clifton have a novel acrobatic sketch which they call "The Unrehearsed." Ed Norton, in songs, and a sharpshooter on the lofty wire, complete the bill.

The cast for the Vitaphone Company's magnificent production of Shakespeare's immortal tragedy, "Hamlet," has been selected and Director James Young is now busily engaged with rehearsals of what is expected to be the most pretentious film story of a classic ever photographed. The cast includes: Charles Kent as Claudius, Arthur Laertes as Laertes, and Clara Kimball Young as Ophelia. Every attention is being paid to detail so as to insure historical accuracy in scenic embellishment, costume and effects.

At the Century Opera House next season there will be seats for \$125, even though the same thing cannot be said, as far as the managers know, for any other theatre in the United States. The new rate is to apply to the orchestra circle, it was announced yesterday.

Every conceivable delight, coupled with several names of unusual prominence, helps to make the new bill at Proctor's Lyric one of the best of the town has yet seen, whether in big or small time vaudeville.

Elita Proctor Otis, with the best company she has ever had with her, is the particularly bright headline feature of the bill, with a delightful and breezy playlet called "The Store Manager." Here her recognized capabilities as a comedienne and artist are given full scope, and she more than makes good. Loud applause rewarded her sketch through out its presentation. Miss Otis's appearance at the Lyric would be well worth a full week, though her stay is only for the first part of the week, ending with her performance tomorrow night.

Another specially good feature of the bill was Charles Kent as Claudius in a human little comedy called "Nobody's Kid." It is just full of sentiment, and is cleverly relieved by some quick bits of wit and slang.

Ruby Raymond, Fred Heider and Boys have a speedy little concoction of song, dance and humor that yesterday's large audiences took to eagerly. Miss Raymond is as pretty and talented as ever, and her companions are equally versatile.

Stevenson and Nugent, in a snappy bit of conversational fun, lived up their things considerably, as did Harrington and his well-trained dogs. Smith and Corrine, in a classy musical and singing number, Dolly Marshall, a dainty singing act, and the Latell Brothers in a graceful posing and athletic offering make up the vaudeville end of this attractive bill. The Lyric seems to be quite cool, even on the warmest days, and the size of the audience well demonstrates this fact.

The latest of the "Fantome" series occasioned much interest. This series

"Bill" McKenna's Minstrels, an act with seven blackface performers, is the feature of Keene's bill for the first three days of the week. The act is of special interest to Newarkers, because Mr. McKenna is a New Jersey boy and has lived in East Orange for a number of years. He has produced and coached minstrel shows for the Elks, Knights of Columbus, Woodmen and other local and suburban organizations. Mr. McKenna has written many popular songs. He wrote the American version "Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly," as sung by Nora Hayes.

The members of the local lodge of Elks yesterday presented to Mr. McKenna a silver pencil. The pencil was mounted with an Elks' emblem in gold. Member of the Jersey City Lodge of Elks, to which he belongs, are coming over to Newark tomorrow night to see the performance. Mr. McKenna is also a member of Jersey City Council, Knights of Columbus. He was born in Jersey City and was educated at St. Peter's College.

For the last four years Mr. McKenna resided in East Orange. Two months ago his troupe of minstrels series, in five reels, is full of intense interest and high excitement. The first three reels were shown, the last being reserved for the last half of the week. Mary Pickford in a photo-play, "All on Account of the Milk," will be seen at the Lyric on Thursday. This is the first of a series of all star photoplays in which Miss Mary Pickford will appear, and will be shown at the Lyric every Monday and Thursday. Her support will consist of such famous stars as Arthur Johnson, Blanche Sweet, Henry Walthall and Mack Sennett.

## STRAND

Serial No. 6 of "The Million Dollar Mystery," the story of which is appearing in the Evening Star, is being shown at the Strand Theatre the first three days of the week. This interesting photo-play proves more gripping and thrilling as the plot develops. Each serial is a story in itself, but the correct solution to the big mystery which runs through the series will not be solved until the last picture is shown. Another feature shown at the Strand recently was "Lord Chumley," a four-reel production of the play in which E. H. Southern, the well-known actor, made his first success. The picture is produced by Klaw & Brainerd.

So popular was the photo-drama "The Little Rebel" when it was shown at the Strand recently that a return engagement has been arranged. The picture will be exhibited Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is in six reels and concerns the great Civil War, showing many battle scenes. In addition, popular comedy films are exhibited daily.

## GOODWIN

"The Mistress of the Air," the thrilling photoplay shown at the Goodwin yesterday and today, was written around an actual episode, which occurred to Miss Florence Seidell, the only woman in the world licensed to fly a hydro-aeroplane.

Miss Seidell was racing against motorboat in California, and the camera men were taking pictures of her flight at the very moment when her air craft fell. Her escape from death was regarded as well deserved.

The occurrence afforded the nucleus for the stirring photodrama, "The Mistress of the Air."

Tomorrow and Thursday Daniel Frohman's presentation of Jane Grey in "The Little Gray Lady" will be given.

## CITY NEWS BRIEFS

Newark will be represented at the convention of the National Alliance of German Catholics, to be held in Pittsburgh on August 3-5. The delegates will be John P. Oelkers, Joseph Sauerborn and Anton Steines.

Alphonse Wintercello, twenty-four years old, of 127 Bank street, is in St. James's Hospital suffering with injuries sustained while unloading lumber at 179 Chestnut street yesterday. His injuries are not serious.

Thomas Lyons, twenty-three years old, of 22 Geneva street, was hurt about the legs and body when struck by a northbound trolley car at Centre and Mulberry streets last night. He was taken to St. Michael's Hospital.

The Newark police band will give a concert tomorrow afternoon at the Foster Home, on Belleville avenue. Yesterday afternoon the band gave a concert at the Home for Crippled Children.

Members of the J. William Huegel Association will go on their annual outing Saturday, August 19, to Hollywood Park, Maplewood. Outing plans were discussed last night at a meeting of the committee in charge of the affair.

Kenna, and that exception will be retained shortly by a new song that the leader is now working on.

The vocalists in the act are Jack Kearns, Sam Winrow, Louis Ritzius and John Nelson. Billy Moss and Billy Cauley, the comedians, also give some fine exhibitions of dancing. Mr. J. Kearns made a big hit with the latest McKenna song, "Just to Be a Chad Again." Winrow was also well applauded for singing another new song of McKenna's, "Bring Her Back to Me." "Down Upon the Old Swagunee," also written by the head of the troupe, was sung by Mr. Cauley. Mr. Nelson did some vamping that made a hit. Ritzius and the rest of the company sang "San Francisco" as a closing number.

Second to the big act was the rest of the program. Princeton and Yale appear to advantage in a funny skit introducing a "city wise guy." Brown and Randall, comedians, get in the good graces of the audience from the start, and are well applauded. Others appearing on the bill are: Eddie Clark, a juggler; Cook and Stevens, comedians; Hastings and West, comedians and vocalists; Charlotte St. Elmo, a singer of popular songs, and "Big Jim," the wrestling bear.

Adventist headquarters here from Elder R. C. Porter, head of the Asiatic division of the church, with headquarters in Shanghai.

According to Elder Porter an official at Le Li Tien, who thought that the troubles of the people had suffered from their refusal to worship idols and their ancestors, ordered a return to the ancient custom.

When the Christians persisted in refusing to worship all the men who were Christians were taken out, bound with ropes and led through the streets. Some of them fell down and were dragged for considerable distance and suffered painful hurts.

Liner Zealand in Midcocean Collision With British Freighter

NEW YORK, July 28.—The Red Star liner Zealand, which arrived last night from Antwerp and Dover, was in collision in midocean shortly before noon on Wednesday with the British freighter Missouri, bound from Philadelphia to London. The Missouri was damaged seriously and the Zealand sustained a hard blow to the starboard side.

Officers and crew of the Zealand were rescued when asked last night about the collision, and it was said that they had been ordered not to talk of the accident. It was stated, however, that the collision occurred in comparatively clear weather and that the Missouri was several hundred yards away when the Zealand sustained the blow from her stern as a signal that she was going astern. The Missouri responded with two blasts, but she came straight on and struck the Zealand a hard blow with her bow. When she backed away it was found that the Missouri's stem had been bent at a right angle to her hull, her deck fittings at the point of collision had been ripped out of place, and her wireless apparatus had been disabled. It was thought on the Zealand that the collision was due to the fact that the Missouri's steering gear was out of order.

Postmasters Not Agents in C. O. D. Mail Order Business

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Postmasters will not be permitted to urge persons to accept C. O. D. and insured parcels addressed to them which they have not ordered. Neither will they be permitted to act as agents of the senders of such packages. Further attempts to coerce the addressees to accept delivery or to effect a sale of the parcels' contents to other persons.

An order to this effect was issued by the postoffice department today. The action was taken as the result of reports to the department which indicated, it is asserted, that parcels are being sent to persons who have not ordered goods, evidently to effect a sale or to make collections. The department explains that persons may accept or refuse such parcels as they choose.

Consider Coining Quarters to Commemorate Panama Canal

WASHINGTON, July 28.—The Senate banking and currency committee had before it today the bill introduced by Senator Thomas of Colorado, providing for the coinage of quarter dollars to commemorate completion of the Panama canal and the hundredth anniversary of peace between England-speaking people. A feature of the bill was the injection of a provision which would fix the price of gold and silver at 22 to 1. The measure would also provide that each quarter must weigh 137.5 grains and that any person offering 103,125 ounces of pure silver, plus \$2.50 in lawful money could receive from the treasury 400 quarters, or \$100.

Accompanying the bill was a statement urging that the measure would establish a fixed par exchange with the British sovereign as a unit of exchange and an approximate parity with twenty-one countries which use the French franc as the exchange unit.

## We Start Our August Clearing Sale

tomorrow, "Wednesday," with reductions in prices ranging from 10% to 30% off. All ODDS AND ENDS in all departments will positively be sold at a discount of AT LEAST 30%. Regular stock will be reduced at least 10%. During this sale our easy payment plan is at your disposal.

Extra 10% Off for Cash

3-Qt. Sauce Pan, 25c



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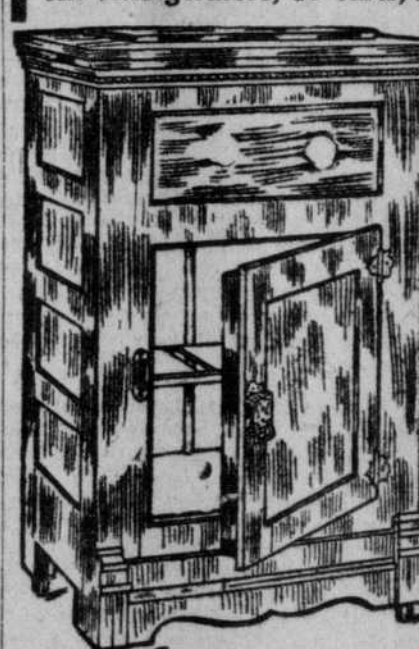
in oak finish, similar to cut, that are actually worth 30% more than we ask, on easy terms or 10% off for cash, are a great bargain while they last. Price, from .... 10.45 Up

Odds and ends in Brussels Rugs of beautiful patterns; \$20 value, special \$14



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